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11.	Winter Show'97 Dec. 20-31, 1997.	-do-	All type of Consumer products categories, giftware, textiles, good living home appliances etc.
12.	International Security Exhibition. Dec. 97 (Tentative)	-do-	Security systems, gadgets, instrument and accessories, etc.
13.	Tex-Styles India'98 Jan. 20-31, 1998.	-do-	Yarns, fibres, threads, fabrics, knits, home furnishings and made-ups CAD/CAM systems, light machinery for textile industry etc.
14.	Ahara'98 March 16-20, 1998.	-do-	Food processing/packing machinery, packing material, agricultural product fresh fruit and vegetables, hotel and restaurant industry, refrigeration machinery, kitchen equipment etc.
15.	Agri-Expo'98 March, 1998. (Tentative)	-do-	All aspects of agriculture, horticulture, floriculture, sericulture, highyielding seeds, fertilisers, chemical insecticides, pesticides, irrigation, tractors and farming machinery etc.
16.	India Int'l Leather Fair February 5-9, 1998.	Chennai	Footwear manufacturing machinery leather manufacturing machinery leather manufactures travel goods purses and fashion accessories etc.
17.	Int'l Leather Goods Fair, March 21-23, 1998.	Calcutta	Leather goods and products.

National Sericulture Project

5394. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the states including Gujarat which have been selected for the National Sericulture Project and the details of works done under this project;

(b) the amount of financial assistance received from World Bank and Swiss Development Corporation for the said project till date; and

(c) the date by which this project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) A World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation assisted National Sericulture Project was implemented in 5 traditional sericulture States namely Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir and on a pilot basis in 12 non-traditional States namely Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Under the project, the components financed are development oriented, with several innovative and synergic constituents. Besides creation of substantial infrastructural facilities by the States and CSB for the discharge of

functions like the supply of quality basic and rearer seed, markets for decentralised private rearers and reelers, research and development and training facilities for on-farm and off-farm activities the project has also attempted the incorporation of efforts by Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) by assisting 125 NGOs. The progress in quantitative as well as qualitative terms has not been insignificant and on the technology generation and absorption side, progress has ranged from the evolution of techniques for genetic marketing of live sericulture material to the introduction of low cost energy conserving ovens in reelers' establishments in the country.

(b) The World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation have disbursed US \$ 120.9 million up to February, 1997 under the project.

(c) The project which commenced in 1989 has closed on 31st December, 1996.

[English]

Plywood Mills

5395. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been issuing licences for setting up of or upgradation of Veneer Mills to Plywood Mills;

(b) if so, the number of licences issued during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have considered the environmental aspects under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, while granting such licences;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of Industrial Licences and Letters of Intent issued during the last three years for the manufacture of Plywood are as under:—

	Industrial Licences	Letters of Intent
1994	One	Three
1995	Two	One
1996	Two	Three

(c) to (e) Applications for grant of Letters of Intent for setting up new units for the manufacture of Plywood based on indigenous Timber are considered in consultation with the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Traded with Romania

5396. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an escrow account mechanism to promote bilateral trade with Romania;

(b) if so, whether under the proposed arrangement exports from India would be restricted to iron ore and manganese ore only and reciprocal imports to steel products;

(c) if so, the nodal agencies in India and Romania to operate the escrow account;

(d) whether the Government also propose similar escrow mechanism to promote bilateral trade with other countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) During the XIth Session of Indo-Romanian Joint Commission for Economic, Technical & Scientific Cooperation held recently, both sides agreed to opening of US dollar escrow account in Romania subject to certain laid down stipulation; provided the utilisation of funds takes place in 3 months. It would be subject to the modalities to be worked out by the Romanian and Indian commercial banks. However, it

is expected that in the proposed arrangement export from India and reciprocal import from Romania would not be restricted to one or two items.

(c) The nodal agency from India to operate this account will be Reserve Bank of India and from Romanian side it would be a bank to be nominated by the Romanian side.

(d) and (e) The Government is encouraging counter-trade arrangements with various other countries in order to boost bilateral trade.

Singareni Collieries

5397. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singareni Collieries fail to achieve production target during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to solve the problems being faced by the company and increase the production to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of targets and actual production of coal from the mines of singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last three years are as under:

(million tonnes)		
Year	Target	Actual
1994-95	25.60	25.65
1995-96	28.00	26.77
1996-97	30.20	28.73

The main reasons of shortfall in production during 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:—

(i) Power shortage/tripping.

(ii) Absenteeism.

(iii) Industrial disputes due to strikes and other extraneous reasons.

(iv) Heavy rains.

(v) Shifting of equipments and break-down of equipments.

(vi) Other reasons which include lay-offs, Adverse geo-mining conditions.

(c) The steps taken by SCCL to solve the problems and increase the production are as under:—

(i) Expediting construction of sanctioned on-going projects.